

INTEGRATION OF CANADIAN FARM AND OFF-FARM
MARKETS AND THE OFF-FARM WORK OF WOMEN,
MEN AND CHILDREN

by

Ray D. Bollman and Pamela Smith

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ABSTRACT

Current levels of participation in off-farm work by farm family members might be viewed as part of an historical trend toward greater integration of the farm enterprise and of the family with the non-farm economy. Over time, farm enterprises have sold larger shares of their produce. As well, larger shares of their output have been based on cash inputs and, at least since the last war, there is a trend towards a greater relative reliance on borrowed capital and paid labour.

To understand the integration of the farm family with the off-farm economy, it is important to analyse the farm business situation separately from the farm family situation. For the farm family, income from off-farm investments and income from off-farm jobs are both becoming relatively more important contributors to farm family income. We note that one off-farm factor - hight interest rates - has had a negative impact on farm business income while simultaneously having a positive impact on the income of some farm families.

Keywords: agriculture, integration, farm family income, off-farm work

INTEGRATION OF CANADIAN FARM AND OFF-FARM MARKETS AND THE OFF-FARM WORK OF FARM WOMEN, MEN, AND CHILDREN

1. INTRODUCTION

Canadian farms and farm families have never been "truly" self-sufficient. Farms have always marketed some portion of their produce and farm families have always purchased some portion of their production requirements. Nonetheless, over time, farms and farm families have become increasingly integrated with the nonfarm economy.

One possible result is that nonagricultural factors are now more influential determinants of farm family economic welfare. As farm/off-farm labour and capital markets become more integrated, macroeconomic policies, such as those reflected in interest rates and unemployment rates, may have greater effects upon the economic well-being of farm families than they have in the past.

The purposes of this paper are: (1) to document briefly the trends concerning measures of integration; (2) to describe the on-farm and off-farm work patterns of farm operators, their spouses, and their children; and (3) to demonstrate the importance of separating the analysis of the farm business enterprise from the analysis of farm family economic welfare.

It is probably well understood that there is no "average" Canadian farm. The well-acknowledged diversity of farm enterprises with respect to size will be analysed along with the diverse patterns of on-farm/off-farm labour allocation among farm families.

In short, just as there is no "average" farm, so is there no "average" farm family. Moreover, given the diversity of farms and farm families in Canada, macro-economic trends can be expected to have widely different effects upon farms and farm families.

2. TRENDS IN THE INTEGRATION OF PRIMARY AGRICULTURAL ENTER-PRISES WITH OFF-FARM MARKETS: AN HISTORICAL PERSPECTIVE

This section describes four measures of the trends concerning farm/off-farm integration at the farm enterprise level.

2.1. FARM OUTPUT

Annual national farm accounts are available from 1926 to date. In 1926, 14 percent of farm production was consumed on the farm and 86 percent was sold to off-farm markets (Figure 1 and Table 1). At this time, farms were already well integrated with the nonfarm economy in terms of marketing their produce. By

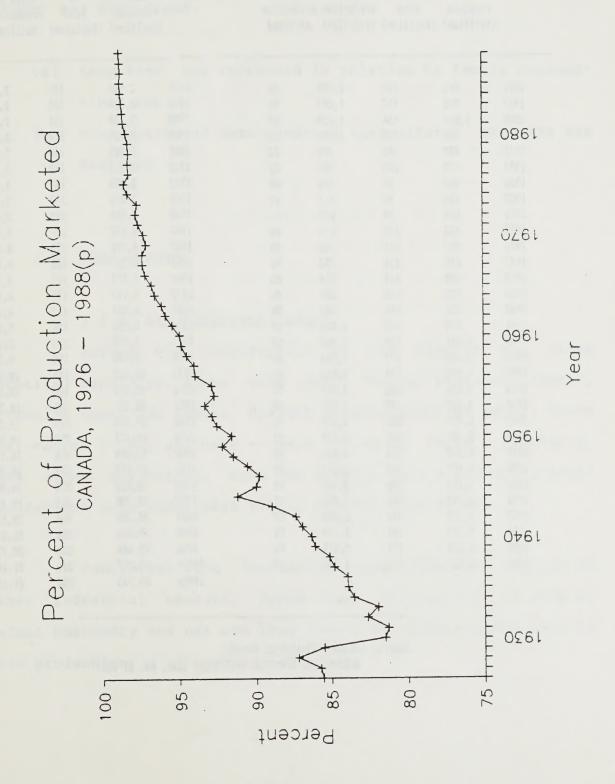


Table 1. Percent of Production Marketed, Canada, 1926-1988

Year	Gross cash receipts	kind	value of production	of production	Year	Gross cash receipts	in kind	value of production	of production
	(\$sillion)	(\$million)	(\$million)	marketed		(\$million)	(\$million)	(\$million)	marketed
1926	961	162	1,123	86	1957	2,516	161	2,67	7 94
1927					1958				
1928					1959				
1929					1960				
1930					1961			-,	
1931					1962				
1932					1963	*		. ,	
1933					1964			.,	
1934					1965		129	- /	
1935					1966		126		
1936	587				1967		122		
1937					1968			,	
1938	650				1969	•			
1939					1970				
1940					1971		113		
1941					1972	5,521			
1942					1973	7,020	169	7,189	
1943					1974	8,984	158		
1944		174	1,980		1975	10,138	155		
1945		185			1976	10,128	187		
1946	1,682	192			1977	10,206	184		
1947		201			1978	12,030	219		
1948	2,381	222	2,604	91	1979	14,337	258	14,595	
1949		204	2,601	92	1980	15,849	266		
1950	2,122	195	2,317	92	1981	18,533	274	18,806	99
1951	2,725	220	2,946	93	1982	18,615	270	18,884	99
1952	2,799	216	3,015	93	1983	18,708	261	18,969	99
1953		194			1984	20,286	266	20,552	
1954		181	2,474	93	1985	19,786	251	20,037	
1955		172			1986	20,486	265	20,751	99
1956	2,529	164	2,694	94	1987p	20,917		21,181	- 99
					1988p	20,933	258	21,191	99

Source: Canada. Statistics Canada.

AGRICULTURE ECONOMIC STATISTICS (Cat. No. 21-603)

1981, only 1 percent of farm output was consumed on the farm and 99 percent of production was marketed. In part, two factors may account for this trend:

- (a) farm size has increased in relation to family consumption; and
- (b) consumption of home-produced agricultural products has declined.

2.2. FARM INPUTS

2.2.1. All Purchased Inputs

Before the introduction of the tractor and other motorized machinery, farms were more "energy self-sufficient", producing their own power. Draught animals supplied power; their fuel source -- hay and oats -- were grown on farms. Similarly, many other activities, such as machine repair and small-scale manufacture were undertaken within the farm enterprise.

Consistent with increasing specialization typical of other industrial sectors, farms have specialized in crop or animal husbandry and are now less likely to produce goods used in farm production.

In the late 1920's, roughly 40 percent of the value of production was allocated to purchased inputs (Figure 2 and Table 2) as it was during the 1940's and 1950's. Since then, purchased inputs have become increasingly important. In the early 1980's over two-thirds of the value of production was allocated to purchased inputs. Farms now rely more on off-farm manufactured inputs and, in this sense, have become more integrated with the nonfarm sector.

2.2.2. Borrowed Capital

Aspects of the "farm financial crisis" underscore the sensitivity of primary agriculture to the non-farm macro-economy. This sensitivity should be understood in its historic context, as measured by interest payments as a percentage of total value-added in farm production, that is as a percent of the total returns to the factors of production, capital and labour.

In 1981, the share of value-added paid to nonfarm creditors represented 23 percent of total value-added (Figure 3 and Table 3). This represents a dramatic increase from the 2 percent share reported in the late 1940's. During in the postwar period, farm enterprises appear to be becoming more integrated with off-farm capital markets. However, the 1981 period also represents a peak (at least for Canada as a whole) in the financial crisis that can be compared to the depression of the

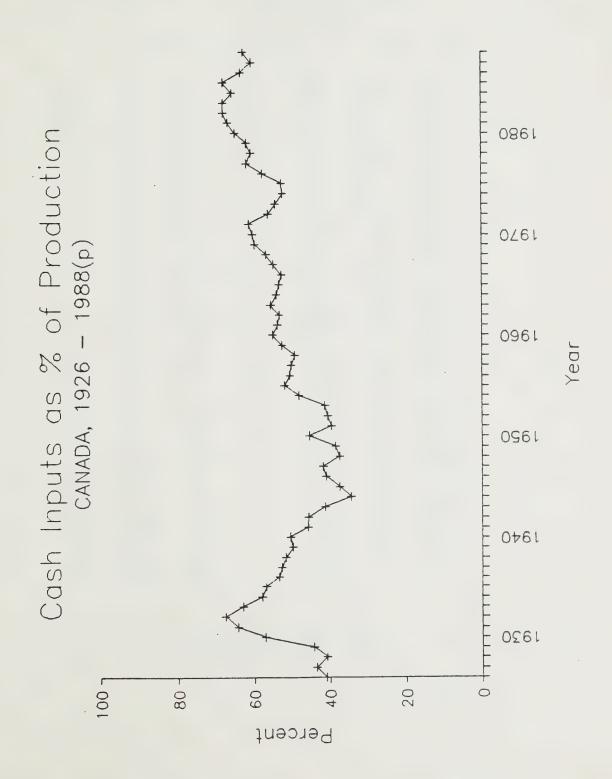


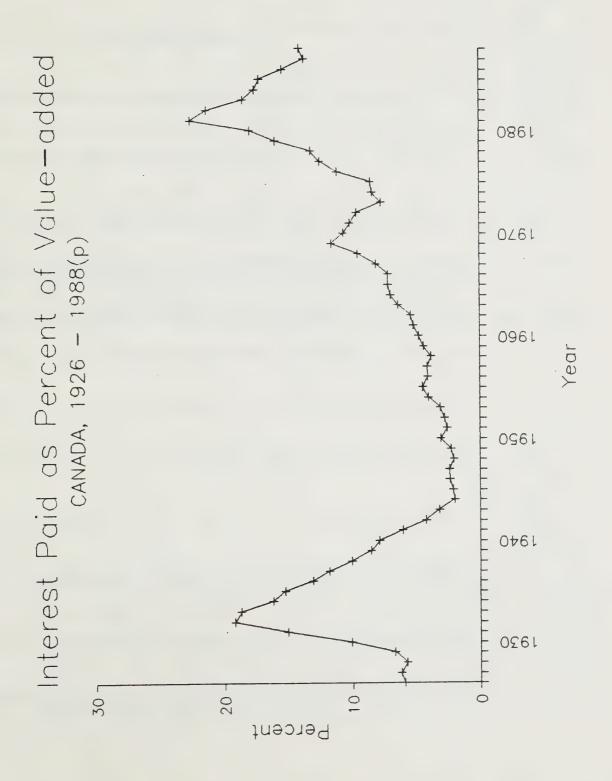
Table 2. Purchased Inputs as Percent of Value of Production, Canada, 1926-1988

Year	inputs	value of	as percent	Year	inputs	Gross value of production (\$million)	inputs as percent
					4 344		*********
1926		•	41		1,341		50
1927				1958	1,433	•	49
1928				1959	1,525	2,905	52
1929				1960	1,584	2,881	55
1930				1961	1,629	3,028	54
1931	373		64	1962	1,731	3,247	53
1932	335		68	1963	1,852		56
1933	323	512	63	1964	1,960		54
1934	349		58	1965	2,109	3,947	53
1935	361	635	57	1966	2,317	4,398	53
1936	373	700	53	1967	2,477	4,517	55
1937			53	1968	2,551	4,490	57
1938	394		52	1969	2,605	4,360	60
1939				1970	2,602		60
1940	426			1971	2,861	4,664	61
1941	460	•		1972	3,178	5,647	56
1942	575			1973		7,189	54
1943	645			1974		9,141	52
1944	681	1,980		1975		10,293	53
1945	688	1,841		1976	5,959		58
1946	768	1,874		1977	•	10,391	62
1947	886	2,125	42	1978	•	12,249	61
1948	972	2,604	37	1979		14,595	62
1949	999			1980		16,115	65
1950	1,051	2,317		1981		18,806	67
1951	1,166	2,946		1982	12,860		68
1952	1,222	•	41	1983	12,923	•	68
1953	1,200			1984		20,552	66
1954	1,188			1985	*	20,037	68
1955	1,251			1986		20,751	63
1956	1,359	2,694	50	1987		21,181	61
				1988	13,315	21,191	63

Source: Canada. Statistics Canada.

AGRICULTURE ECONOMIC STATISTICS (Cat. No. 21-603)

FIGURE 3.



1926-1988	
Lanada,	
value-added,	
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DISTRIBUTION	
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Value- added (1)			8	8	90	2 5	3 5	3 5	3 5	8 5	3 5	3 2	3 5	3 2	3 5	3 5	3 5	8 2	8 8	8 5	00	001	90	100	90	100	100	001	90	100	100	001	100
Gross farm rent	1 1 1		•	.	- (vo •		? ~	.	יש כ	·	•	•	• •	> =		•	- W	•	-	· vo	S	S	9	7	9	9	7	. 🕠	9	9	-	S.
Property taxes	•	•	•	•	•	•	• •		· •	-	•	-	-	٠.	, ~	•		- 6-7	۰	. ~	~	m	~	2	2	2	2	~	2	~	₩	2	m
Wages paid (incl. room		· fuer rediction	= :	2 :	= =	2 2	2 =	: =	: =	2 9	6	. 6	. E	: =	: =	: 2	9	9	a	•	01	12	01	91	9	2	=	12	=	13	12	12	13
Deprectivation paid (land and (incl. room buildings) and board)		2	9 -	2 5	1 :	1 5	<u> </u>	2	: =		91	8	20	7.5	22	21	-	15	15	17	22	92	24	24	56	24	56	27	24	24	22	21	z
Interest		-	• -	• -	ru	, v	· ~	• •	^	7	1	œ	6	12	=	10	01	00	00	œ	=	12	13	91	8	23	21	18	81	17	15	*	=
Realised net farm income		17	70 77	\$ 2	S 5	S 59	8 8	22	23	22	29	38	52	47	87	3	%	09	63	29	20	45	=	45	37	35	33	33	39	37	42	47	=
Year		1957	1959	1959	1960	1961	1962	1963	1964	1965	9961	1967	1968	1969	1970	1971	1972	1973	1974	1975	9261	1977	1978	1979	286	1861	1982	1983	1984	1985	9861	1987	1988
Value- added (1)		90	2	2 2	2	8 9	100	901	001	001	00	100	100	001	100	100	100	901	001	100	100	00	8	00 3	8	8	2	8	100	90	90	001	
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Wages paid ncl. room	***percent**	. 12	13	=	13	17	19	17	91	=	=	13	=	*	13	=	=	9	6	1	9	o 0	20 r		~ «	> r	- «	30	œ ;	0	=	01	1 2 2 4 8 9 6
Deprec- Wages iation paid (land and (incl. room	; *** 	6	01	01	12	17	21	22	2	91	15	= :	12	12	=	=	6	∞	7	9	,	30 (20 r	~ •	• :	21	2 5	2 :	12	91	17	15	
Interest payments (9 d d d d d d d d d d d d d d d d d d d	9	9	9	7	10	15	61	61	9 :	25	<u> </u>	. 12	9	•	c	•	-	~	2	~		~ 6	7 6	7 2	A C	O P	21	· .	.	-	•	
Realised net fare income		62	29	62	æ	7	&	23	S :	9 !	:	₹;	Z :	25	28 (% :) ;)	7.7	= 1	C ;	2 5	2 5	: ×	2 5) ř	2 =	7 \$	69	79	Š;	79	
Year		1926	1927	1928	1929	1930	1931	1932	1933	1934	55.5	1936	195/	1938	1939	1940	1941	1942	1945	1944	1945	1946	1940	070	1050	2001	1071	7041	26.	200	25.5	1936	

Source: Canada. Statistics Canada. AGRICOLTURE ECONOMIC STATISTICS (Cat. No. 21-603) (1) Value-added is the return to labour and capital (ie. the factors of production) and is calculated as (realized) net farm income plus interest, depreciation. 1930's - in both 1932-33 and in 1981-82, 19 percent or more of value-added was paid to service farm debts.

2.2.3. Hired Labour

In 1951, self-employed workers (66%) and unpaid family workers (17%) contributed the bulk of agricultural labour, while paid workers provided only 17 percent of farm labour (Figure 4 and Table 4). By 1981, farmers relied much more on paid labourers to operate their farms, when over 40 percent of all workers in agriculture were paid. However, the percentage of paid workers who are also members of the farm family in years prior to 1971-1981 is uncertain (1) and it should be noted that the share of value-added paid to hired workers has remained in the 10 to 15 percent range over the past 30 years (Table 3).

We will see later (Table 6) that about one-third of all paid workers were in fact members of "family farm" households in 1981. In 1971, as well, about one-third of paid workers were members of "family farm" households. We do not know this proportion for 1951 or 1961. If one-third of paid workers have always lived in farm households, then the shift shown in the data (Figure 4 and Table 4) is correct. If a smaller proportion of paid workers were members of farm households before 1971, then the shift shown in the data overestimates the trend towards a greater reliance on the nonfarm labour market for farm labour requirements.

Figure 4

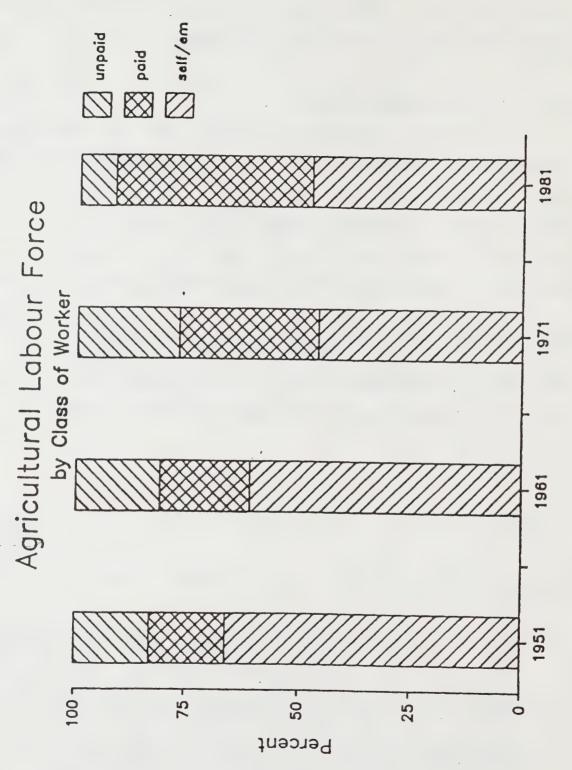


Table 4. Distribution of Agricultural Labour Force by Class of Worker, Canada, 1951 - 1981

Year	Class	of worker	r		
0		ner(1) fa	npaid T amily orker	otal	
1951	66	17	17	100	
1961	61	20	19	100	
1971	47	32	23(2)	100	
1981(3)	48	44	8(2)	100	

Source: Canada. Statistics Canada. 1951 Census of Population, Vol. IV,

LABOUR FORCE, Table 11.

1961 Census of Population, Vol. III,

LABOUR FORCE, Table 20.

1971 Census of Population, Vol. III,

LABOUR FORCE Table 8

LABOUR FORCE, Table 8.

1981 Census of Population, unpublished tabulations.

(1) Self-employed individuals in incorporated companies are classified as wage earners in 1971 and 1981.

(2) Unpaid family workers are higher in 1971 and lower in 1981 compared to other censuses because of the way the questions were asked. See Gilles Simard, "Analyse du statut professional et de la forme juridique au Recensement de 1981," unpublished paper, Statistics Canada, February, 1984.

(3) Figures reported here include farm managers who are not included in the agricultural occupation classified in 1981, but who were coded to the management code 1146. The present figures are based on the 1971 occupational codes to preserve comparability.

2.3. IN SUMMARY

- ** Farms enterprises are more integrated with off-farm commodity markets--a larger share of output is now sold;
- ** Farms are more integrated with off-farm markets that supply farm inputs--a larger share of production is now derived from purchased inputs;
- ** Farms now rely more on off-farm capital markets for capital required to operate the farms; and
- ** Farms now rely more on paid labour. It remains uncertain whether this labour is true "hired", "non-family" off-farm labour or whether it is paid farm family labour.

Generally, farm enterprises are now more integrated with the non-farm economy along three important "output" or "input" dimensions but whether they rely upon "off-farm" labour markets to a greater degree remains uncertain.

3. TRENDS IN INTEGRATION OF THE FARM FAMILY WITH OFF-FARM MARKETS

Farm family members have traditionally devoted most of their capital and labour to the farm enterprise. The purpose of this

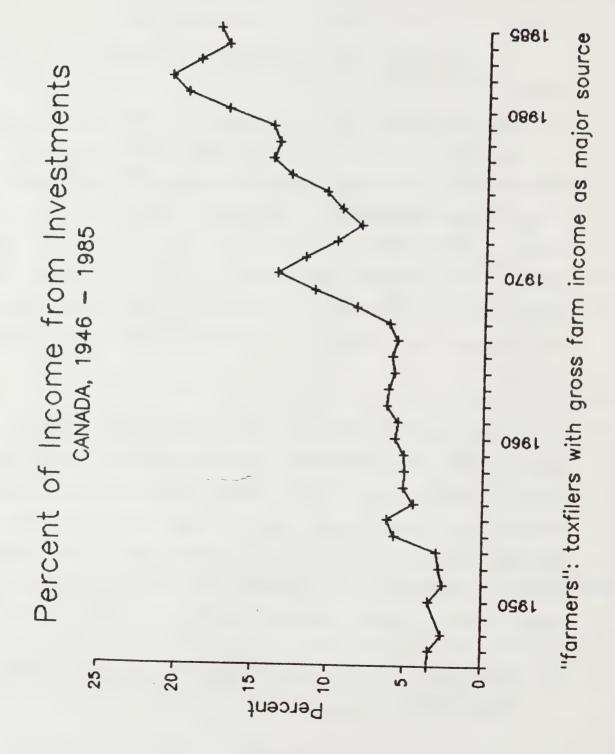
section is to determine the degree of integration of the farm family with off-farm capital and labour markets.

3.1. INTEGRATION WITH OFF-FARM CAPITAL MARKETS

For this purpose, the best, long-term data series available to investigate this is a 1946-1982 taxation data source. (2) In 1946, income received from off-farm investments averaged \$37 per "farmer" and represented 3 percent of income from all sources (Figure 5 and Tables 5a and 5b). By 1982, investment income peaked at \$3,213 which represented 21 percent of total income. Farmers are investing more in off-farm capital markets--returns from off-farm investments are becoming a larger share of total income.

We saw earlier (Figure 3) that the farm enterprise is sensitive to developments in off-farm capital markets (specifically, interest rate levels). Farms financed with debt capital experience a "crisis" when interest rates rise. However, farm families with off-farm investments benefit from higher interest rates. Certainly, high interest rates were one reason for the higher level of average investment earnings in recent years. The

⁽²⁾ Several different definitions of farmers are possible using this source. For this purpose, farmers are defined as unincorporated taxfilers whose principle source of gross income is from farming.



iar	Number of "farmers" (1)	Het farming or fishing income (14)	Hages and salaries (3,4,6, 11)	Family allow- ance (5)	Unea- ployment insurance benefits (5)	income	Off-farm self- employ- ment net income	nent income (8)(9)	Net rental income	Estate income (10)	Net taxable capital gains (5)	Niscel- laneous income including alimony (12)	Total off-fars income income (sub- total)	Total net income	Average income of all male taxfilers	of "farmers" as a	Average income of all taxfilers	facone of "farmers" as a percent of all taxfilers
1946		1,015	26	• •	• • • •	0		37	8	2				1,097			-,	65.2
1947		1,092	61	• •	• • • •	0	12	41	16	3				1,227			1,876	65.4
1948		1,473	74	• •	• • • •	0	14	42	12	2	***	. 2		1,620		• •	2,091	77.4
1949		1 7/1	**	• •	• • • •	••	**		••		• • •		(13)	1,853		• •	2,245	82.5
1950		1,361	66	• •	• • • •	0	11	52	0	11	***	-		1,506		• •	-,	64.1
1951		1,868	81	• •	• • • •	0	22	51	19	8	• • •			2,051		• •		80.3
1952		1,921	107	• •	• • • •	18	22	60	25	6			240	2,162		• •	2,700	80.0
1953		1,877	114	• •	• • • •	21	17	63	29	*	***		254	2,131		• •	2,789	76.4
1954		1,199	128	• •		24	16	84	24	4 5	• • •		279	1,479			-,	53.1
1955		1,041	151	• •	• • • • • • • • • • • • • • • • • • • •	27	20	83	30	3	***		314	1,355			2,884	46.9
1956	-	1,501	180	• •		29	21	82	32 32	3	• • •		345	1,846			-,	60.3
1957		1,462	226	• •	• • • •	30	16	96		*	• • •		405	1,867			3,160	59.0
1958		1,847	203	• •	***	39	15	114	20	5	• • •		397	2,244			3,300	68.0
1959		1,861	209	**		43		117	21	3	• • •		433	2,294			3,405	67.3
1960		1,867	209	• •		49	21	132	18 18	4	• • •		451	2,318			3,501	66.2
1961		2,051	230	• •	• • • •	48	26	140 169	19	3	***	10	486	2,537		• •	3,601	70.4
1962	- •	2,172	252	• •		64	25		19	3	***		546	2,719		47.7	3,701	73.4
1963		2,245	267	* *	• • • •	63		172	17	•	• • •		549	2,794			•	73.1
1964	•	2,517	291	* *	•••	70	27	190		7	***		598	3,115			•	77.6
1965		2,659	325	• •		69	29	195	14	/	***		647	3,306				78.8
1966		2,690	377		***	74	30	190 214	17 18	5	•••	,	699	3,392				76.4
1967		2,744	398		•••	83	31 35	268	19	3	***		755 852	3,499				75.2 66.0
1968		2,392	424	***		91 107	36	314	18		***	,	929	3,244 2,845				54.4
1969		1,914	443			130		390	20	7	•••		1,042	2,799		42.2		50.6
1970 1971		1,758 2,159	456 523	• •		140		385	20	6	•••	,	1,129	3,288				56.0
1972		3,048	661	• •	40	156	46	427	30		11		1,389	4,437				69.5
1973		5,054	795	• •	64	191	43	545	36	•••	32		1,729	6,783				96.0
1974		6,789	888	296		217	79	875	38		118		2,596	9,385				114.9
1975		7,568	1,024	317		239	100	1,112	44	•••	221		3,168	10,736			-	116.4
1976		6,570	1,046	309		270	90	1,292	50		326		3,474	10,045			•	97.3
1977			1,204	330		309	118	1,405	54	•••	351		3,904	10,036	13,718			90.3
1978		6,133	1,330	332		329	119	1,460	43	•••	433		4,237	10,741	14,760			
1979		7,744	1,473	247		374	115	1,766	60	•••	598		4,854	12,598				104.3
1990	- ,	7,539	1,662	258		436	136	2,251	50	•••	678		5,727	13,265			13,716	%.7
1981		8,970	1,914	257		497	147	3,169	54	•••	882		7,192	16,159			•	104.8
1992		8,281	1,956	296		575	190	3,213	64	•••	625		7,257	15,535				92.3
1983		7,605	1,995	276		684	192	2,749	86	•••	628		6,987	14,588				84.1
1984		8,768	1,959	279		755	237	2,701	105	•••	652		7,094	15,855				82.8
	265,694	8,072	2,217	273		915	216	2,751	118		780		7,565	15,634	20,000	.,	19,386	80.6

See footnotes at the end of this table.

Year	Number of "farmers" (1)	Net farming or fishing income (14)	Wages and salaries (3,4,6, 11)		Unem- ployment insurance benefits (5)	income	Off-fare self- employ- ment net income	Invest- ment income (8)(9)	Net rental income	Estate income (10)	capital	Miscel- laneous income including alimony (12)	Total off-farm income income (sub- total)	Total net income
	each incom	me source	as percen	t of tot	al income					********				
104	6 117,647	92.5	2.4	.0	.0	.0	.7	3.4	7	0			7.6	100.0
1947		89.0	5.0	.0		.0	.9	3.4	.7 1.3	.2			7.5	100.0
1948		90.9	4.6	.0		.0	.9	2.6	.7	.1			10.9	100.0
1949		.0		.0		.0	.0	.0	.0	.0			9.1	100.0
1950		90.4	4.4	.0		.0	.8	3.4					.0	100.0
1951		91.1	3.9	.0		.0	1.1	2.5	.0	.7).		9.6	100.0
1952		88.9	4.9	.0		.8	1.0	2.3	1.2	.4	.(8.9	100.0
1953		88.1	5.3	.0		1.0	.8	2.9	1.4	.3).		11.1	100.0
1954		81.1	8.7	.0		1.6	1.1	5.6			.(11.9	100.0
1955		76.8	11.1	.0			1.4		1.6	.3).		18.9	100.0
1956		81.3	9.8	.0		2.0	1.1	6.1 4.4	2.2	.4).		23.2	100.0
1957		78.3	12.1	.0			.9	5.1	1.7	.2	.0		18.7	100.0
1958		82.3	9.0	.0		1.6	.7	5.1		.2	.0		21.7	100.0
									.9	.2	.0		17.7	100.0
1959		81.1	9.1	.0		1.9	1.0	5.1	.9	.2	.0		18.9	100.0
1960		80.5	9.0	.0		2.1	.9	5.7	.8	.2	.0		19.5	100.0
1961		80.8	9.1	.0		1.9	1.0	5.5	.7	.2	.0		19.2	100.0
1962		79.9	9.3	.0		2.4	.9	6.2	.7	.2	.0		20.1	100.0
1963		80.4	9.6	.0		2.3	1.0	6.1	.6	.1	.0		19.6	100.0
1964		90.8	9.3	.0		2.2	.9	5.8	.5	.1	.0		19.2	100.0
1965		80.4	9.8	.0		2.1	.9	5.9	.4	.2	.0		19.6	100.0
1966		79.3	11.1	.0		2.2	.9	5.6	.5	.2	.0		20.6	100.0
1967		78.4	11.4	.0		2.4	.9	6.1	.5	.1	.0		21.6	100.0
1968		73.7	13.1	.0		2.8	1.1	8.2	.6	.2	.0		26.3	100.0
1969		67.3	15.6	.0		3.8	1.3	11.0	.6	.1	.0		32.7	100.0
1970		62.8	16.3	.0		4.6	1.5	13.6	.7	.2	.0		37.2	100.0
1971		65.7	15.9	.0		4.3	1.4	11.7	.7	.2	.0		34.3	100.0
1972		68.7	14.9	.0		3.5	1.0	9.6	.7	.0	.2		31.3	100.0
1973		74.5	11.7	.0		2.7	.9	8.0	.5	.0	.5		25.5	100.0
1974		72.3	9.5	3.2		2.3	.8	9.3	.4	.0	1.3		27.7	100.0
1975		70.5	9.5	3.0		2.2	.9	10.4	-4	.0	2.1		29.5	100.0
1976		65.4	10.4	3.1	.5	2.7	.9	12.8	.5	.0	3.2		34.6	100.0
1977		61.1	12.0	3.3		3.1	1.2	14.0	.5	.0	3.5		38.9	100.0
1978		60.6	12.4	3.1	.8	3.1	1.1	13.6	.4	.0	4.0		39.4	100.0
1979		61.5	11.7	2.0		3.0	.9	14.0	.5	.0	4.7		38.5	100.0
1980		56.8	12.5	1.9	.5	3.3	1.0	17.0	.4	.0	5.1		43.2	100.0
1981		55.5	11.8	1.6		3.0	.9	19.6	.3	.0	5.5		44.5	100.0
1982		53.3	12.6	1.8	.8	3.7	1.2	20.7	.4	.0	4.0		46.7	100.0
1983		52.1	13.7	1.9	1.1	4.7	1.3	18.8	.6	.0	4.3		47.9	100.0
1984		55.3	12.4	1.9	1.0	4.8	1.5	17.0	.7	.0	4.1	1.5	44.7	100.0
1985	265,694	51.6	14.2	1.7	1.1	5.2	1.4	17.6	.8	.0	5.0	1.4	48.4	100.0

.. figures not available

.. figures not appropriate or not applicable

 "Farmers" are defined as taxfilers whose major source of gross income is (unincorporated) self-employment income from farming. This is the definition used by Revenue Canada, Taxation in their "Taxation Statistics" annual publication.

- (2) Canada includes the Yukon and Morthwest Territories. Memfoundland is not included until 1949.
- (3) "Commissions from employment" and "other pensions or superannuation " were included in wages and salaries prior to 1966.
- (4) "Other employment earnings" (i.e., adult training allowances, research grants, tips and gratuities) were included in wages and salaries prior to 1954 and from 1959 to 1971.
- (5) This item became taxable in the year indicated.
- (6) "Old age pension" was included in wages and salaries prior to 1952.
- (7) From 1968 to 1970, the amount reported in Old Age Pension included Supplements and Canada Pension Plan (CPP) of Quebec Pension Plan (QPP) Benefits.
- (8) Dividends represent actual dividends received prior to 1971. Starting in 1971, the "taxable amount of dividends" is included, which, in general, is one third higher than the actual dividends received.
- (9) Starting in 1969, Bond Interest and Bank Interest were categorised separately.
- (10) "Income from trusts" and "Estate income" were separate items prior to 1951. They were combined under "Estate income" from 1951 to 1972 and they were combined under "Income from trusts" thereafter.
- (11) Annuity income is included in wages and salaries prior to 1951.
- (12) "Other Canadian investment income" is included in "miscellaneous income" prior to 1951 and from 1959 to 1963. "Foreign investment income" is included in "miscellaneous income" prior to 1963.
- (13) In 1949, at the Canada level, average earned income equalled \$1,796 and average investment income averaged \$57
- (14) Starting in 1980, net farming and net fishing income were tabulated separately in Table 3 of Revenue Canada, Taxation "Taxation Statistics" (annual).
- (15) The average income of all taxfilers fell in 1978 due to the influx of taxfilers with little or no income who claimed the child tax credit.

Source: Canada. Revenue Canada. Taxation Statistics (annual).

Unpublished statisics were obtained from Revenue Canada, Taxation.

other reason is that savings deposits had been built up during the previous farm income boom. This allocation of investment capital to the off-farm market represents an increasing integration of farm families with off-farm capital markets.

In Section 2.2.2 above, we noted that increasing interest payments by the farm sector to the nonfarm sector represented increased integration of farm enterprises with the nonfarm sector. Here, we observe that farm <u>families</u> now allocate more of their financial investments to off-farm capital markets on average.

But, these averages hide a structural diversity. About one-third of all operators receive more interest than they pay, another one-third pay a small amount of interest (e.g., under \$5,000 per year) and the remaining one-third pay over \$5,000 interest per year (Bollman, 1983). Therefore, the observation that "farms" now borrow more from the non-farm sector must be tempered with the observation that "farm families" are investing more in off-farm capital markets. Further, the varying activities of three separate groups in the farm structure with respect to interest payments and receipts suggest there are different types of integration with capital markets.

3.2. INTEGRATION WITH OFF-FARM LABOUR MARKETS

Farm families also allocate more of their labour to the off-farm labour market. Between 1951 and 1981, the proportion of census-farm operators reporting "some days of off-farm work" has increased from 28 percent to 39 percent (Figure 6). In 1941, the proportion of operators reporting off-farm work was high--largely as a result of short-term opportunities for performing custom work for other farmers. The percentage of operators reporting full-time off-farm work (3), has increased from 3 percent in 1941 to 14 percent in 1981. Average days of off-farm work per operator reporting has also increased from 75 days to 171 days (Figure 7). As a result, developments in off-farm labour markets may have an increasingly important impact on farm family income.

Another measure of the importance of off-farm labour markets is to note the proportion of total income of "farmers" that accrues from off-farm earnings. In 1946, off-farm wage earnings averaged \$26, which represented 2 percent of total income (Figure 8 and Tables 5a and 5b). By the 1970's and 1980's, off-farm wage earnings ranged between 9 and 16 percent of total income.

⁽³⁾ Defined as more than 228 days of off-farm work.

Figure 6

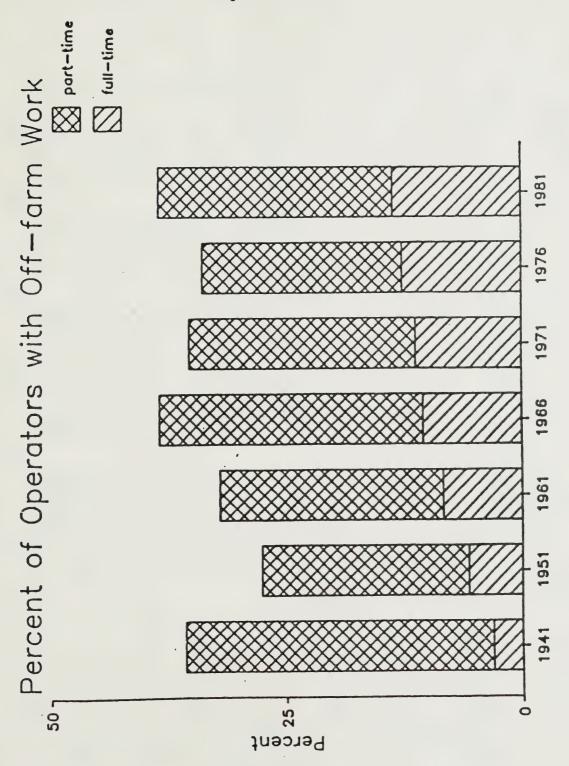
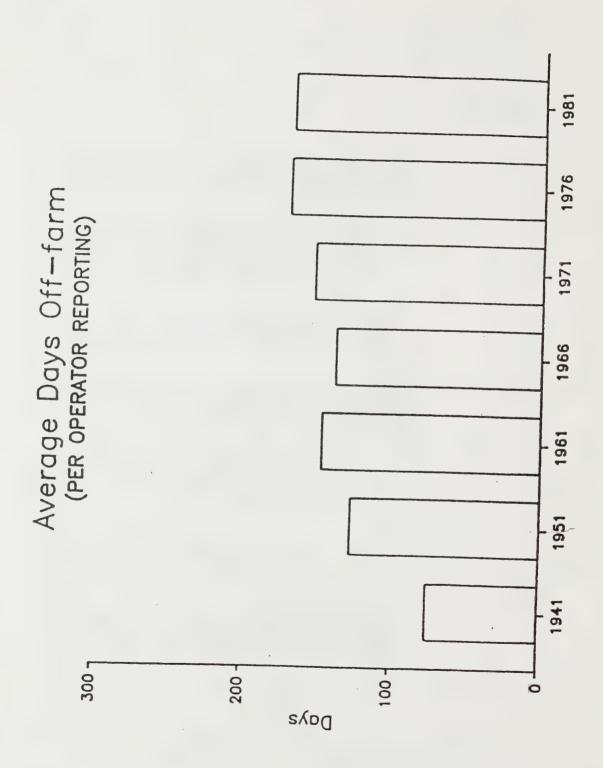
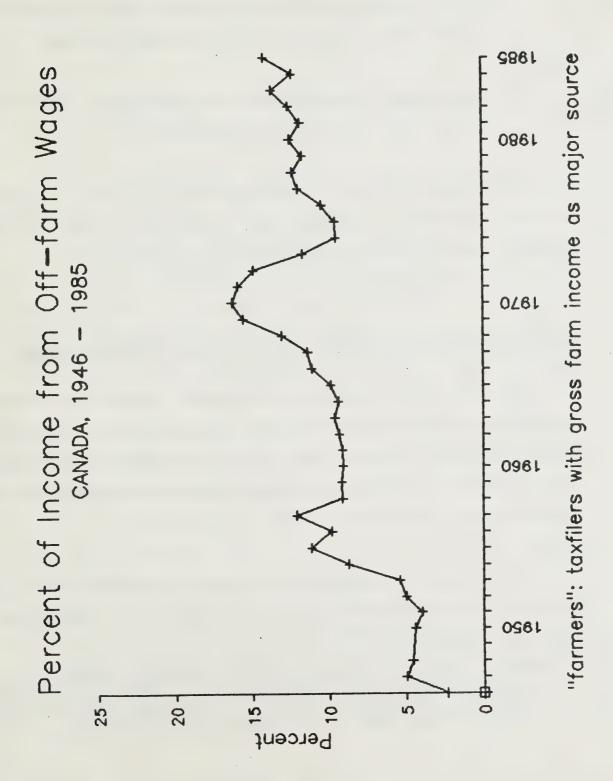


Figure 7





3.3. IN SUMMARY

- ** Farm families now derive a larger share of farm family total income from off-farm employment earnings.
- ** On average, a larger share of farm family total income is derived from off-farm investments.

Therefore, it can be expected that the economic well-being of farm families is becoming more sensitive to macro-economic trends, such as unemployment rates and interest rates.

4. OFF-FARM WORK PARTICIPATION BY WOMEN, MEN AND CHILDREN

To this point, various trends which suggest the increasing integration of both farm enterprise and the farm family with the nonagricultural economy have been considered. The purpose of this section is to describe the current patterns of off-farm work participation by farm men, women and children.

By way of introduction, we note that households of operators of "family farms" (4) supply two-thirds of all the labour in

^{(4) &}quot;Family farms" refers to proprietorships, partnerships and family corporations. Excluded are institutions, community pastures, Hutterite colonies, nonfamily corporations and miscellaneous types such as estates and trusts.

agriculture (Table 6). Virtually all (96 percent) of unpaid family and the great majority (88 percent) of self-employed workers reside in "tamily farm" households.

4.1. DISTRIBUTION OF HOUSEHOLD MEMBERS ACCORDING TO MAJOR OCCUPATION

For each individual 15 years of age or over, an occupation was recorded for the major job for the week prior to the census (June 3, 1981), or, if the individual did not work, for the last job held since January 1, 1980. Aggregate annual hours for each individual are calculated by multiplying the hours worked last week by the weeks worked last year. The results indicate that "family farm" households worked a total of 1.2 billion hours in 1980 (Table 7). Overall, 60 percent of the household labour is supplied by the operator, 16 percent is supplied by the spouse, and 12 percent is supplied by children. Two-thirds of the work was on-farm and one-third was off-farm. (5)

The farm/nonfarm labour allocation pattern shows significant differences by sex of the household member. Among male

We recognize that some individuals classified to an agricultural occupation would work part-time off the farm and similarly, some individuals classified to a nonagricultural occupation would work part-time on the farm. It is not possible to determine whether, on balance, aggregate nours attributed to farm work or to off-farm work would be overstated or understated.

Table 6. Proportion of Agricultural Labour Force who are members of households of operators of "family farms"(1), within each sex and class of worker group,

Canada, 1981

Sex	Cl	ass of work	er		THE COLUMN COLUM
361	Self-employed worker	Paid worker	Unpaid family worker	Total	
	* *	*percent***			
Male	87	32	92	64	
Female	94	42	98	69	
Total	88	34	96	65	

ources: Canada. Statistics Canada. LABOUR FORCE - OCCUPATION
BY DEMOGRAPHIC AND EDUCATIONAL CHARACTERISTICS,
1981 Census of Population (cat. no. 92-917)
Canada. Statistics Canada. Unpublished tabulations from
the 1981 Agriculture-Population Linkage

1) "Family farms" refers to proprietorships, partnerships, and family corporations. Excluded are institutions, community pastures, Hutterite colonies, non-family corporations, and miscellaneous types such as estates and trusts.

Table 7. Within Household Distribution of Aggregate Hours of Work,	Family Member,	
ĸ,	×	
Hor	•	7
o f	r Z	79
Hours	de, by	Canada,
regate	usehold	Bex,
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00	3	ton,
ıtion	TAIN	Supat
ă	71	ŏ
Distr	Tani	Ajor
P	HO	×
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Within		
1.		
Table		

	Heles Females 524 6 182 10 710 10		Both	Xales					
ė	324 782 782 83	**0				Both	Males Females	Females Both	Both
agric, occn. non-agric, occn. total(4)	7 NO 7 %	3046							
non-agric. occn. total(4)	710 710 710 710 710 710 710 710 710 710	10	530	80	~	7	74	9	7.
	nw	;	720	12	4	99	100	100	100
Operator's spouse	n •					•		:	•
agric. occn.	•	===	2	-		•	2 4		• •
total(4)	•	100	200		7,6	16	100	100	100
Children of operator									
agric, occn.	3	•	20			•	25	13	7
non-agrid. ocon. total(4)	117	24	7 5	120	100	* 21	1000	100	100
All members of households									
Adric, occn.	32	~	38		-	0		98	**
non-agric. ocen.	**	~	•		0	0	-	7	15
total(4)	37	*	7		7	c	100	100	100
Other household members								:	
Agrio. ocen.	0 0	n r	9 6		N -	n c		68	2 6 2
total(4)	15	`:		-		-	100	100	100
and the state of t									
sario occu.	683	103	786	7			1 72	Ç	99
non-agric. occn.	262	125	386	27	7 52	32	27	25	32
total(4)	955	236	1193	10			100	001	100

Source: Canada. Statistics Canada. Unpublished tabulations from the
Source: Canada. Statistics Canada. Unpublished tabulation Linkage

[1] "Family farms" refers to proprietorships, partnerships, and family corporations.

Excluded are institutions, community pastures; Muttarite colonies.

[2] The occupation is requested for the major job of the individual (15 years of age or over)

for the week prior to the census (June 1, 1981), or if not working,
then for the last job hald since January 1, 1980.

[3] Aggragate hours are estimated by multiplying the hours worked last week
by the weeks worked last year.

[4] "Occupation not stated or not applicable" is not shown, but is included in the totals.

27

operators, three-quarters of their work is agricultural and one-quarter is off the farm (Figure 9 and Table 7), whereas female spouses split their work between agriculture (57%) and off-farm employment (Figure 10 and Table 7). Male children allocated slightly more than half of their labour (55 percent) to agricultural work while female children allocated over three-quarters (78 percent) of their labour to non-agricultural occupations.

4.2. OFF-FARM WORK PARTICIPATION PATTERNS

Participation in off-farm work is defined by an individual receiving employment earnings (i.e., wages and salaries or non-farm self-employment income), where his or her usual place of work is not "at home." (6)

In 1981, 29 percent of the operators reported off-farm work and 29 percent of the spouses of operators reported off-farm work (Table 8). In 17 percent of the farm families, children of the farm operator work off the farm. In total, 53 percent of Canadian farm families depend on off-farm earnings contributed either by the operator, or by the spouse, or by one or more

⁽⁶⁾ This last criterion represents an attempt to exclude farm family members who receive wages for working on the family farm.

Figure 9

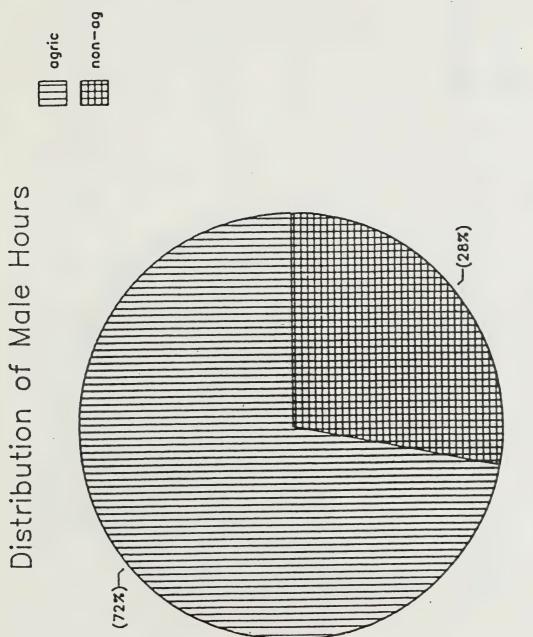


Figure 10

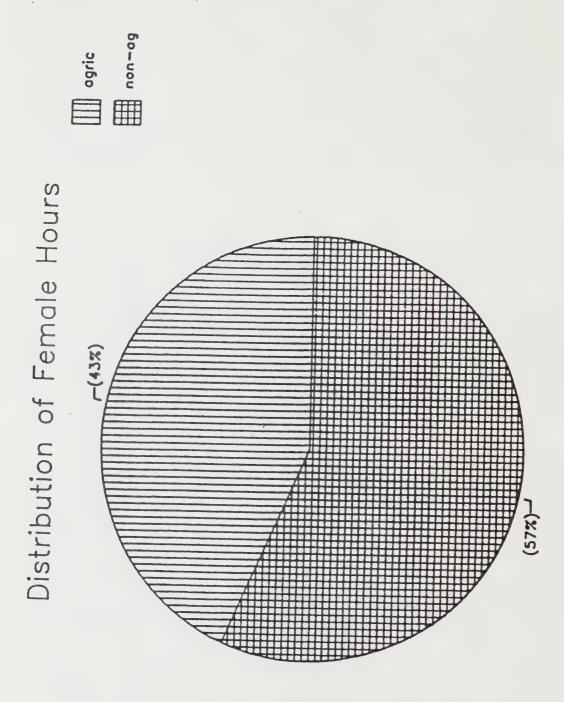


Table 8. Off-farm Work Patterns of Operators, Spouses, and Children, by Size of Gross Farm Sales, Canada, 1981

		size of gro	Size of gross farm sales				
	under \$5,310	\$5,318- \$2 21,805 5	\$21,805- 55,999	\$56,000- 159,999	\$160,000- 399,999	00- \$400,000 Total 99 of over	Total
	4 0 0 0 0 0 0 0 0 0 0 0 0 0 0 0 0 0 0 0	1 1 1 1 1 0 0	ses percent ses				
Neither operator nor spouse nor child(ren) work off-farm	25	07	57	6.5	99	88	4.7
Child(ren) only work off-farm	40	,	10	11	12	10	•
Spouse only works off-farm	•	13	3.6	15	11	15	23
Child(ren) and spouse work off-farm	n		n	•	7	~	C
Operator only works off-farm	36	•	•		м	*	2
Operator and child(ren)			n	•	•	c	•
Operator and apouse work off-farm	12	**	80			'n	10
Operator and spouse and child(ren)					0		••
Total(1)	100	100	0 100	100	100	100	100
subtotal: operator works off-farm subtotal: spouse works off-farm	37		23 14	90 %	200	23	23
subtotal: child(ren) work(s) off-farm	13	18	9 16	15	3 16	16	17

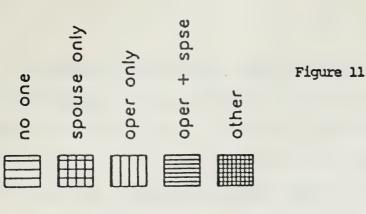
Source: Canada. Statistics Canada. Unpublished tabulations from 1981 Agriculture-Population Linkage

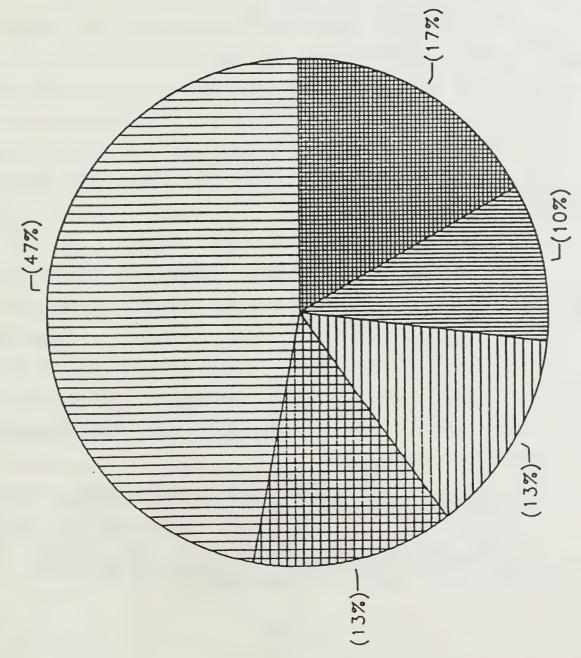
(1) This group represents 87% of all Gensus-farms. Excluded are institutions, community partures, non-family corporations, Hutterites, and miscellaneous types such as estates and trusts. Also excluded are unmarried operators and multi-farm households.

children, or by any combination of these. However, for a large group (47 percent), off-farm earnings are not a factor in family economic welfare. The detailed distribution of census-farm operator families is as follows:

- 47 percent have neither the operator nor the spouse nor any children working off the farm;
- 13 percent have only the spouse working off the farm;
- 13 percent have only the operator working off the farm;
- 10 percent have both the operator and spouse working off the farm;
- 8 percent have only (one or more) children working off the farm;
- 3 percent for each: spouse and children working off-farm, operator and children working off-farm, operator and spouse and children working off-farm (Figure 11).

These patterns vary significantly among farms of different sizes, in terms of gross farm sales. In 1981, 25 percent of all census-farms had less than \$5,318 gross sales (Ehrensaft et al., 1984). For these small holdings, 75 percent report at least one family member with off-farm work. At the other end of the scale,





for farms with gross sales from \$56,000 through to \$399,999, (7) two-thirds of the families have no family member with off-farm work. If they do report off-farm work, it is a case of "spouse only" or "child(ren) only" with some off-farm work. Only 5 or 6 percent of the operators in this gross sales range reported off-farm work.

The case where the "operator only" works off the farm is four times more predominant for small farms under \$5,318 sales than for any other sales class. On larger farms, the operator is much less likely to participate in off-farm work, either by her/himself or with other family members. If a family member works off the farm on larger farms, it is likely to be the spouse or a child.

These findings show a complex pattern of on-farm/off-farm labour allocation. Generally, there is less likelihood of off-farm work participation by farm family members on larger farms. The complexity of the labour allocation patterns becomes evident when the type of family member is considered. The wide diversity of farm families in terms of their on-farm/off-farm labour

⁽⁷⁾ In 1981, 25 percent of all census-farms reported gross sales of \$56,000 or greater, accounting for 74 percent of aggregate gross sales. One percent of census-farms reported sales of \$400,000 or more and provide 19 percent of gross sales. Thus, farms in the \$56,000 to \$399,000 range (i.e., the 75th to 98th percentile) represent 24 percent of the farms and 55 percent of aggregate gross sales.

allocation patterns means that there is no such thing as an "average" farm family.

4.3. CONTRIBUTION OF OFF-FARM WORK TO FARM FAMILY INCOME

When farmers are asked why they combine farm and off-tarm work, their responses can be classified into two groups: (1) a desire to maintain or supplement family income and (2) a preference for rural living (Bollman 1979, Appendix D). Off-farm work by the operator, the spouse and the children provided 35 percent of the total farm family income in 1981 (Table 9), but the contribution to family income varies considerably depending upon which family member and how many family members report off-farm earnings. The proportion of total family income coming from off-farm earnings (Table 9) should be considered jointly with the proportion of families reporting each off-farm work pattern (Table 8).

For larger tarms (with gross sales of \$56,000 or over), oft-farm earnings contributed only 12 percent of total family income on average. (8) Therefore, among farms that produce the bulk of agricultural sales, off-farm earnings are not a large factor in

⁽⁸⁾ Recall that 25 percent of census-farms in 1981 had sales of \$56,000 or more and accounted for 74 of the aggregate gross sales.

Table 9. Contribution of Off-farm Earnings to Total Family Income, by Operator, Spouse, and Child(ren) Off-farm Mork Pattern, by Size of Gross Farm Sales, Canada, 1981

		size of gr	Size of gross farm sales	478 4A1			8 8 0 0 0 0 0 0 0 0 0 0 0 0 0 0 0 0 0 0	8 8 8 8 8 8 8 8 8 8 8 8 8 8 8 8 8 8 8 8	8 8 8 8 8 8 8 8 8 8 8 8 8 8 8 8 8 8 8 8	0 0 0 0 0	6 6 8 8 8		
	0 0 0 0	nder	under \$56,000			\$56,00	\$56,000 or over	6	\$56,000 or over	6 6 8 8	Total		
	- 4	Spouse	Operator All	A11	Child (ren) Spouse Operator All	Spouse	Operator	۸۱۱	All Child (ren) Spouse Operator	Spou	Be Operat	F A11	1
						•	percent		8 8 8 8 8 8 8 8 8 8 8 8 8 8 8 8 8 8 8 8	i 1 1 1 1		i	
Neither operator nor spouse nor child(ren) work off-farm	8	•		•							•		•
child(ren) only work off-farm	23	•		- 5	77	~		-	-121	1.6	•	•	7.0
Spouse only works off-farm	•			- 39		-		~		1	35		3.5
Child(ren) and spouse work off-farm	3.5	7		•		6	•	~		2	25	•	33
Operator only works off-farm	•		•	74 74			- 58		- 100		•	13	23
Operator and child(ren) vork off-farm	23	·	***	96		•	200			13	-	55	=
Operator and apouse vork off-farm	•	28		•		,	23 5	7				3	2
Operator and apouse and child(ren) vork off-farm	•	23		52 82		10	17 40		=	10	z	12	
Total		13		30 45		~	n		-=-	•	10	11	33
					- 1		•				0 0 0 0 0 0 0 0 0 0 0 0 0 0 0 0 0 0 0 0		

Source: Canada. Statistics Canada. Unpublished tabulations from 1981 Agriculture-Population Linkage

= = :

(1) This group represents 87% of all census-farms. Excluded are institutions, community pastures, non-family corporations, Mutterit es, and miscellaneous types such as estates and trusts. Also excluded are unmarried operators and multi-farm households.

the total family income. However, within this group of larger tarms, off-rarm work is important for a small group of families. For example, on 15 percent of these farms, the "spouse only" works off the tarm (Table 8) and contributes 27 percent of the family income (Table 9).

For families with farms under \$56,000 gross sales, off-farm earnings on average contribute 45 percent of the total family income. Here again, off-farm earnings are very important for a small group of families. For example, both the operator and the spouse work off the farm on about 10 percent of the farms with gross sales less than \$56,000 and their earnings provide 88 percent of total family income.

4.4. IN SUMMARY

Over half (60%) of all farm families' aggregate hours of work are contributed by farm operators; three-quarters of their hours are worked in agriculture, while the remaining 25% are worked off-farm. Spouses work 16% of the total aggregate household hours, but their work is split almost equally between on- and off-farm work. Children contribute 12% to the aggregate pool of labour from all household members, and male children are more likely to work these hours in agriculture (55%) than are female children (22%).

Off-farm work is one means by which farm families can supplement their income from farming. As might be expected, therefore, participation in off-farm work is more characteristic of farms with lower gross sales than those with higher gross sales. However, while this relationship is most pronounced for tarm operators, it is less evident among spouses of operators. Furthermore, it is non-existent among children, whose off-farm work participation is unaffected by size of gross sales.

As well, the general relationship between size of gross sales and off-farm work should not be exaggerated. Even among farms with relatively large gross sales — where the average percentage of total family income derived from off-farm sources is only 12%, there are some (15%) in this sales class where "spouse-only" off-farm work provided 27% of the total family income in 1980. Nor should the general relationship be regarded as a uniform pattern, without significant variation. Among farms with relatively low gross sales, where off-farm work provides an average of 45% of total family income, there are those (10%) where both the operator and the spouse work off-farm and derive almost all (88%) of their total family income from this source.

5. CONCLUSIONS AND FURTHER RESEARCH ISSUES

Current levels of participation in off-farm work by farm family members might be viewed as part of an historical trend toward greater integration of the farm enterprise and of the farm family with the non-farm economy. Over time, farm enterprises have sold larger shares of their produce. As well, larger shares of their output have been based on cash inputs and, at least since the last war, there is a trend towards a greater relative reliance on borrowed capital and paid labour. (9)

From the point of view of the farm family, income from offfarm investments and income from off-farm jobs are both becoming
relatively more important contributors to farm family income.

Off-farm work contributes 35 percent of total farm family income,
on average. Among families on the larger farms which produce the
bulk of agricultural output, however, off-farm earnings are not a
major factor—contributing only 12 percent of total family income
in 1981. Nonetheless, for farms with either relatively small or
large gross sales, there is considerable variation in the
percentage of total income earned from off-farm work.

⁽⁹⁾ Although it should be remembered that it is unclear whether increases in paid labour are attributable to non-family or tamily paid labour.

Canadian family farms have always interacted with "off-farm" markets. The purpose of this paper has been to assess whether primary agriculture has become increasingly integrated with the "off-farm economy" and whether participation in the "off-farm labour market" can be understood in this context.

To conduct these assessments, we have proposed that it is necessary to analyze the characteristics of the farm enterprise separately from those of the farm family. Many "off-farm" factors impact upon the enterprise and the family. We have suggested that one of these—high interest rates—has had a negative impact on farm business income while simultaneously having a positive impact on the income of some farm families. This observation confirms the need to analyze enterprise characteristics separately from those of the farm family, for the interaction of these "off-farm" factors may affect the behaviour of farm family members in complex ways.

Some analysts view macro-trends in off-farm work participation as indicators of the desire to acquire capital for farm expansion or of the need to maintain family income levels. Although these are important indices, off-farm work participation patterns are complex. Conclusions drawn from such indices should be tempered by a consideration of several other factors, including the place of farm families in the farm structure. When participation in off-farm work by farm family members is consi-

defined by size of gross farm sales, at least two conclusions are evident. The first conclusion is that there is no "average" Canadian farm enterprise, for there is a wide diversity of farm sizes. Farm families have varying degrees of dependence on off-farm sources for income, either from interest or from off-farm work. Averages often mask complex behaviours and trends. The second conclusion is that there is no "average" Canadian farm family, for on-farm/off-farm labour allocation patterns of farm families are also diverse. Farm size does influence the overall level of family off-farm work. At the same time, however, the tendency of various farm family members to engage in off-farm work appears to be only partly related to farm size.

These conclusions underscore the need for further research and discussion. What are the principal factors which are related to the diversity of the off-farm work patterns of all farm family members? If the tendency of operators' spouses to engage in off-farm work is only partly related to farm size, what are the other factors associated with this? Can models developed for the operator (eg. Bollman, 1979) be used to explain the off-farm work participation of spouses and children? Is there an important interaction between the extent to which farm operators and their spouses participate in off-farm work? To what extent are these interactions mediated or required by the characteristics of the enterprise, such as gross sales or major enterprise type?

Furthermore, to what extent do "off-farm labour market" factors, such as relative wage rates and demand for particular occupations, influence off-farm work patterns? Since ultimately the size of the farm enterprise may be determined simultaneously with the on-farm/off-farm allocation of labour, can the fundamental factors which explain the on-farm/off-farm allocation of labour be identified?

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